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EDUCATION SERVICES DEPARTMENT

The Department of Education Services provides leadership and supervision to the five divisions of the department.

1. Accreditation
Linda Vrooman Peterson (406) 444-5726
Division Administrator lypeterson@mt.gov
2. Career, Technical and Adult Education
Dr. Jody Messinger (406) 444-9019
Division Administrator jmessinger@mt.gov
3. Educational Opportunity and Equity
BJ Granbery (406) 444-4420
Division Administrator bgranbery@mt.gov
4. Health Enhancement and Safety
Cathy Kendall (406) 444-0829
Division Administrator cakendall@mt.gov
5. Special Education
Robert Runkel (406) 444-4429
Division Administrator brunkel@mt.gov

In addition to directing the activities and personnel of the five divisions, the following programs are administered by the Department of Education Services:

- Robert C. Byrd Honors Scholarships
<http://www.opi.mt.gov/scholarships/index.html>
- U.S. Senate Youth Scholarships
<http://www.opi.mt.gov/sholarships/index.html>

Staff of the Education Services Department include the following:

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Spencer Sartorius, Assistant Superintendent
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Carol Gneckow, Program Specialist
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Accreditation Division (MontSASE)

<http://www.opi.mt.gov/Accred/Index.html>

The Accreditation Division assists school districts in the implementation of the Montana Accreditation Standards and monitors district and school progress to meet or exceed these rules.

The Division supports continuous education improvement in all Montana schools to improve teaching and learning for all. The Division reviews school program offerings, staffing, classroom loads, and other school practices for compliance with the Montana School Accreditation Standards and recommends school accreditation status to the Board of Public Education. The Division provides assistance to schools, districts, and teacher education programs to align standards, curriculum, instruction, assessment, and professional development.

The division staff coordinates, develops, implements, evaluates, and reports continuous education improvement efforts to help ensure that all Montana children meet or exceed high learning expectations, and that all educators meet high professional learning expectations. The Division provides training and technical assistance for regional on-site peer accreditation reviews. The Accreditation Division supports several education programs that enhance the quality of education in Montana. Some of these programs are: Learn and Serve Montana, Technology Literacy Challenge Fund Grants, Eisenhower Professional Development, Character Education, Literacy and Read Montana Initiative.

Division of Career, Technical and Adult Education

<http://www.opi.mt.gov/CareerTechEd/Index.html>

The Division of Career, Technical and Adult Education provides professional development, technical assistance and program expertise to instructors and administrators.

Educational Opportunity and Equity

<http://www.opi.mt.gov/EdOpportunity/index.html>

The Division of Educational Opportunity and Equity (EOE) consists of a variety of federal grant programs and several functions funded by the state general fund. The focus of all the programs is opportunity and equity for all students.

Health Enhancement and Safety

<http://www.opi.mt.gov/health/Index.html>

The Health Enhancement Division includes most of OPI's "health-related" programs. Units within the Division include School Nutrition Services, Traffic Education, and Coordinated School Health. This Division encourages school programs designed to prevent major health problems and health risk behaviors among youth and to facilitate students achieving their maximum potential.

Special Education

<http://www.opi.mt.gov/SpecEd/index.html>

The Division of Special Education has responsibility for assuring that children with disabilities receive a free and appropriate public education in the least restrictive environment. Division staff provide training, technical assistance and monitor special education services provided by public schools and state-operated programs. The Division is also responsible for managing the flow of state and federal dollars for special education programs.

We support schools in their efforts to adopt exemplary teaching practices that lead to improved teaching and learning experiences for children with disabilities.

Assessment-MontCAS

Judy Snow (406) 444-3656

Assessment Director jsnow@mt.gov

<http://www.mt.gov/Assessment/index2.html>

MontCAS is the Montana Comprehensive Assessment System and consists of two different statewide tests, phases 1 and 2.